

**DISTRICT III ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FOR
JUNE 6,2000
7:00 p.m.**

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The District Advisory Board III was held in room 117, Colvin Mini-City Hall, 2820 S. Roosevelt.

Members Present

Brent Tumipseed
Jim Gulick
Bill Ward
Gene Fuhr
Phyllis Hall
Phil Bloomquist
Judy Dillard
Vice-Mayor Phil Lambke
Sammy Rivera, DAB Staff

Members Absent

Sharon Askew
Ora Nestelroad
John Kemp
Lois Ann Newman (late)

Guests

Officer Matt Brown, WPD
Officer Michael Hungria, WPD
Officer Lisa Rollins, WPD
Officer Mike Roetz, WPD
Inspector Leonard Fox, OCI
Randy Schofield, Great Plains Earth
Institute
Dr. Toni Pickard, PHD, WSUIHOP
June Bailey, DAB IV
Deputy Fire Chief Michael L. Rudd, WFD
Ray Trail, City of Wichita Finance Director
Sam Muyskens, Human Services
Commission
Jack Brown, Environmental Health
Director

Vice-Mayor Phil Lambke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The minutes were approved with corrections.

PUBLIC Agenda

Mr. **Randy** Schofield, from the Great Plains Earth Institute, came to speak on behalf of the Community Garden program. This program can be currently found at churches, community centers, citizens' back or front yards or abandoned lots through the City. Some of the other advantages of this program are: beautification of properties and communities; provides needed food; and increase neighbors communication.

There are at least a couple of community gardens in Planeview, as well as one, in Hilltop in District III. Mr. Schofield told DAB Members that his organization is currently looking forward to assist groups of neighbors that are interested on developing community gardens in their areas. Mr. Schofield also indicated that a community garden could be established on either a small lot or on a large one. It can also be done at a church or a school. The idea is to revitalize the neighborhood by improving conditions.

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Finally, Mr. Schofield told DAB Members that he can be reached for further information at 262-4120.

PLANNING

1. Planning Request for Special Meeting

The Metropolitan Area Planning **Commission** (MAPC) is requesting a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, June 20, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. to present a proposal to amend a Commercial Community Plan to allow construction of and placement of a 90 foot cellular tower proposed by Sprint PCS. This Planning request for a special meeting was presented to DAB III Members for recommendation. **Time request** was approved.

Time District Advisory Board is requesting the following information:

1. City of Wichita new policy information if any, on where to place communication towers within City limits.
2. A FAA/IMC Connehl Air Force Base report on the potential impact that this tower may have on aviation traffic, since the potential location is near the Air Force Base.

2. Follow Up on Planning Cases Previously Reviewed

None

BOARD AGENDA

3. Presentation on Pollution Prevention of the Arkansas River

Jack Brown, **Environmental Health Director** made a presentation on this topic.

Mr. Brown told DAB Members that the City of Wichita and its Citizens are very concerned about the quality of the water that flows in the Arkansas river as it passes through Wichita. Mr. Brown said that in the past the City has

experienced problems with water contamination. In 1994, a malfunction at the sewer system in Park City impacted the quality of water of the Arkansas River during River Festival that year.

This incident caused the Health Department to sample the water upstream. Since 1998, the City of Wichita has been required by the State of Kansas to do more testing. Mr. Brown indicated that according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, (KDHE) report, every time that there is a storm in the area that produces a lot of rain, the levels of water quality will drop. It seems that there is a bacteria known as fecal coliforms bacteria that is been carried by flood waters from native land, perhaps from cattle, and release in large levels causing the river to become a health hazard. Once the water level amount diminished to normal, the river goes back to normal. According to Mr. **Brown**, usually the Arkansas River quality of water will be normal until it rains. The ability of the river to be safe for the public use is known as Sanitary Ability and it drops for 2 to 3 days after it rains, then again, the water levels will return to normal. This means that the water will be safe for human contact such as swimming, and second contact, like fishing.

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The State Department of Health and Environment and the Environmental Health section will meet soon to determine ways to improve water quality on the Arkansas River. Mr. Brown also told DAB Members that this fall, a larger meeting will be held with all the parties involved to improve water quality. It seems that Wichita currently is the most affected city by this problem.

There is a plan that involves the mobilization of staff from several agencies like the Water Department, Environmental Health, Wichita State University to work as a team to deal with different problems that the Arkansas River may have at any given time.

The Department of Environmental Health is currently focusing on the DNA testing that the Kansas State University is doing in the river in order to determine the origin or source of contamination. Mr. Brown indicated that the water of the Arkansas River will never be a stream water, because its own nature the river carries a lot of sediment. He also told Board Members that the Federal Agency for the Protection of the Environment, (EPA), will become involved in the research later on this year.

At this time, **Congressman Todd Tiahrt** is looking for more funding at the federal level to pay for further research and to implement programs that will improve the water quality of the river.

The agencies performing testing at the Arkansas River are doing so at different locations in the river, upstream and downstream. The Health Department is usually active doing water sampling on urban areas during special events, and on a monthly basis.

The Kansas Department of Health and the Environment is working on doing a water-sampling map that will show: locations of sampling; frequency of sampling; and source of sampling. The City of Wichita continues to do routine sampling of the City landfills in order to detect any possible underground water contamination.

Mr. Brown told DAB Members that during periods of flooding in the Arkansas River, there are areas north of Wichita where the Grand Ditch is located where the City Water Department is pumping water to certain areas of the river in order to raise the banks levels. There are currently conservation effort programs in the City that involves the participation of groups of citizens working together to assist with some of the testing that is done to the river.

However, they are assisting us on a limited basis due to the need for more training and equipment, but their participation it is expected to increase in the near future. It is important to be clear that there will always be certain testing that will have to be done by the City personnel only.

There is not evidence at this time to declare that the contamination that the river is facing has any ground water or industrial origin. It is believed that it may have an animal origin. The City is not currently engaged on any water contamination testing at the Big Ditch, but it will be done later on.

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Finally, Mr. **Brown declared that** the City has a financial allocation on the comprehensive plan to assure water quality in the City of Wichita.

4. Traffic Study Process Evaluation

June Bailey, DAB IV Member, made a presentation on this topic. Mrs. Bailey told DAB Members that the City of Wichita is creating a Ad Hoc Task Force to review and make recommendations of the current process of traffic studies. DAB Members, Members of the Wichita Police Department and Public Works Traffic Engineers, will represent this team.

The following traffic related concerns will be look into and the participants will make recommendations if any, to the DAB's first and then to the City Council for areas that may need improvement:

1. Public Works Department, Traffic Engineering Section current procedures to rate a particular section for traffic signal.
2. Current procedures and rules for reporting an accident, including the State's rules for report, that the Wichita Police Department uses.
3. Compare the number of reports that Police Department is reporting at a given intersection versus the numbers that the Traffic Engineering is utilizing to determine the need for a traffic signal.
4. The efficiency and benefit of using different forms to prepare police accident reports.

The goals are to be able to build a better reporting system that will allow traffic investigators and Traffic Police Officers to spared more time on the streets and less time writing reports and also to develop a more user-friendly process for installation of traffic signals. Finally, to goal is to prevent and reduce tragic deaths and injury accidents on Wichita roads and intersections.

This Task Force currently needs up to 3 volunteers from the DAB's to work between four to six months on this special project. **Vice-Mayor Lambke appointed the** following individuals to this Task Force:

- **Bill Ward**
- **Phil Bloomquist**
- **Paul Davis**

June Bailey can be reached for more information at 945-7876

5. Citizen Input on Budget Process

Vice-Mayor Lambke mentioned The City of Wichita Budget Process presentation meeting on June 8

2000 at Century II and the information was received and filed as recommended.

6. July DAB Meeting-Hohidav scheduling

Vice-Mayor Lambke mentioned that a change on the meeting day for the DAB needed to be change for the month of July due to the 4th of July, a national holiday. The board commented and recommended a change on days from July 4th to the July 18, DAB's alternate meeting date for July 2000.

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7. Presentation on Alternative Group to administer CSBG funding

Reverend Sam Muyskens, former President of Wichita's Human Services Commission made a presentation on this topic.

Since the times of President Lyndon Johnson, the government has created Non-Profit Community Action Groups to provide advise on the administration and usage of Federal CSBG funding.

Reverend Muyskens indicated that these funds were created to provide resources to identify causes and conditions of poverty as well as to pay for needed services that will improve the conditions and quality of life of low-income citizens.

Because CSBG Funding rules were changed, cities like Wichita, were later allowed to become community action agencies with power to administer this funding. Reverend Muyskens spoke on behalf of a group that believes that the City is not currently the best agency to administer these funding and that a Non-Governmental, Non-Profit Community Action Group can do a better job administering CSBG funding in order to serve the undeserved better.

Reverend Muyskens recommended DAB Members to pay close attention to the way Wichita is handling these funding. If the funding is not administer or use properly, he recommended them to consider the creation of a Community Action Agency.

Vice-Mayor Lambke told DAB Members that the City of Wichita is currently on compliance with CSBG funding.

Reverend Muyskens can be reached for further information at 722-8562

8. Presentation on Fire Station Relocation Study

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Rudd of the Wichita Fire Department and Ray Trail, Director of Finance made a presentation on this topic. The Fire and Finance Departments shared with DAB Members the results of a recent study conducted by TnData, Inc., an Emergency Management consulting firm based on Arlington, Virginia.

Mr. Ray Trail stated that in 1998, while the City was going thru their annual budget creation and approval process, a need to develop a comprehensive review to evaluate existing Fire Department services was identified. The purpose was to determine ways to improve the quality and amount of services that this department provides to the citizens of Wichita.

In mid-1999, The City of Wichita competitively selected a Consulting firm, TnData, Inc. of Arlington, Virginia to provide an objective, third —party evaluation of the current level of services and to recommended cost-effective deployment options for the future. This firm has conducted similar studies for many like-size communities throughout the nation. Tn-Data specializes on performance measures for local government.

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This study considered the community's fire protection and recommended ways to improve response time to all sections of the community and to addressed the need of two new fire stations and renovation work.

In this study, Tn-Data, Inc. presented to the City in February of 2000, it evaluated the current level of service of the 18 fire stations citywide. The study involved a recommendation on the number of new stations needed and how many stations will need to relocate in order to better serve the City. They also looked on the way field units were deployed to different kinds of calls and the distribution of staff to those calls as well as the type of fire apparatus used. Tn-City staff visited with key City and Fire personnel as well as fire stations and The Dispatch Center to obtain vital information for the study. They also evaluated the mutual response between the City of Wichita Fire and Sedgwick County Fire.

Tn-Data study determined that the Fire Department is currently serving well the citizens of Wichita, including being on the leading edge for average response time for a city of its size. There are areas that are not responded to as well as others. Locations on the border or close to City limits, and some small pockets within the City, exceed the average response time of over 5 minutes.

The study also determined that as the City continues to grow at its present rate, its current system of fire units could experience much more demand than it currently is handling in terms of workload. However, because the City is expanding its limits further away from the downtown area into areas closer to other cities and county limits, it will take longer for firefighters to respond to these locations from their existing stations. There is also a shift on population relocation; citizens are leaving the core areas and moving away to other areas where the coverage and response time is not the same. Also, because the population grows in other areas, the volume of calls also increase making the relocation and creation of new fire stations a need that must be addressed.

Deputy Fire Chief Mike Rudd said that there are eight Fire Stations that are in need to be rebuilt because of their current structure condition. It cost taxpayers 1 million dollars to build a Fire station, and more than a million per year to maintain it.

The Relocation of existing stations and creation of two new stations over the next decade serves the goal to keep and improve insurance rates for citizens of Wichita, as well as increasing fire safety and adequate staffing. The idea is to increase the response time to five minutes for the first unit and eight minutes for the second unit responding. Tn-Data recommended a six minutes average response time for 90 % of the time, in order to be cost effective. There is also a need to increase the current staffing of ladder units from three firefighters to four firefighters, in order to have those units fully staff all the time.

Deputy Chief Rudd said the study showed that the City of Wichita Fire Department responds to more calls in Sedgwick County area, than Sedgwick County Fire respond to calls in the Wichita area. It takes 50 seconds to 9-1-1 dispatch the fire/rescue call; 54 seconds for firefighters to respond; and at least 3 minutes to drive to the emergency

location.

The relocation of stations and creation of two new ones will increase and improve time response and it will include the hiring of 13 new firefighters over the next 10 years for a total of 44 firefighters.

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The Study Plan proposes to start the relocation of the eight Fire Stations and the creation of two new ones on the year 2000 and to finish by 2009. It will take approximately one year to relocate or build a new Fire station. In 2000, the plan proposes three relocations: Stations 12, 13 and 19.

For 2001, the plan proposes the relocation of Station 7 and the creation of a new Fire Station 6.

In 2002 there will be two stations relocated; Station 15 and Station 4.

In 2003, the plan proposes the relocation of Station 10 and for 2006, the creation of a new Fire Station 20. Finally, in 2008, the plan proposes the relocation of Station 11.

The plan also proposes the relocation of one Battalion Chief from Station 1 or Station 2 to Station 17 or to a new western station, in order to provide more Battalion Chief coverage in the western quadrant of the City. It finally proposes more enhancement of the City Data Center analytical capability to undertake fire department deployment analyses. The City Geographic Information System can be combined with the data from the Fire Department to periodically update and refine the analyses made on the report and to explore the pros and cons of various station locations as the City's annexation and street network development continues.

The Plan was received well by DAB Members.

1. Problem Properties

The Meadowlark Association of Neighbors reported the following problem properties:

- **3156 S. Crestway**

Broken windows, bad general conditions, house has original roof, (about 50 years old). Apparently OCI has scheduled a court date for June 2000.

- **2371 S. Pershing**

Owners live in the Kansas City area. House currently vacant. Apparently the grass is too high. The house has a Fenced utility basement between this property and adjoining property at **4510 E. Pawnee** is a jungle of trees and underbrush.

- **4440 E. Kinkaid**

Vacant house with possible high grass

Recommendation: Take appropriate action.

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OTHER BUSINESS

2. DAB Comments on possible relocation of District III Mini-City Hall

Vice-Mayor Lambke invited DAB Members to discuss the possibility of changing the current location of District III Mini-City Hall and asked Board Members to consider possible locations for the Mini-City Hall. **Vice-Mayor Lambke stated that the current location** does not provide adequate access to citizens in his District and the Mini-City Hall does not have to be located on District III

The following potential locations were recommended: Triangle area on George Washington Boulevard and Pawnee; (Member Bill Ward); South Hydraulic across the South City Post Office (Vice-Mayor Lambke); At the location where Station 11 is currently located; (George Washington Blvd)(Member Bill Ward); Linwood Park (Vice-Mayor Lambke)

Dr Toni Pickard WSU Public Health Professor in Charge of Healthy Options for Planeview, spoke on the importance to keep the Mini-City Hall in Planeview. Dr. Pickard said that there are currently many important partnerships established at the Colvin Center between the City of Wichita, the community, the School District, Community Education, WIC, Health Department and several nonprofit agencies that are serving this and other communities in south Wichita. The Mini-City Hall plays an important role in impacting and making a difference in the lives of citizens who lived in the area. All the key agencies that work at the Center are linked and network together to provide at one location a variety of services needed by the Community. Dr. Pickard said that signs could be placed at different areas to guide citizens to the Mini-City Hall area. The Mini-City Hall provides vital services in conjunction with other agencies at one location to the community.

Tire Aninesty

Vice-Mayor Lambke told Board members that Sedgwick County will have a Free Tire Amnesty program with two tire collection sites at the Sedgwick County West Yard, **4701 S. West Street** and at the **Sedwick County North Yard, 10530 E. 37 Street North**. This program will run on Saturday, June 17 and throughout the week of June 19th - 24th. The free disposal will be limited to 100 tires/person.

ADJOURN

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Rivera
District III Neighborhood Assistant